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RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0001
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 000009

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/01/09 TAGS: <u>EWWT MARR PREL KPIR MU</u>

SUBJECT: MUSCAT RESPONSE TO ARMS FOR SECURITY TEAMS DEMARCHE REQUEST

REF: A. 09 STATE 116588; B. 09 MUSCAT 845

CLASSIFIED BY: L. Victor Hurtado, DCM, Department of State, Embassy Muscat; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

11. (C) This is a response to Ref A request for an update on the implementation of regulations to allow armed security teams to transit Oman in order to embark or disembark vessels at the Port of Salalah (Ref B). Based on information provided to us by Inchcape Shipping Service (ISS), the only current facilitator of transit, about 15 security teams are transiting to or from the Port of Salalah each month. However, although allowed by law to do so, thus far none of the teams have been armed with lethal weapons.

12. (U) The point of contact to transit Oman is:

Mr. Rajan Thomas

Tel: +968 9943 0767

Fax: +968 2452 1908

Email: sssrop@omantel.net.om

Website: www.rop.gov.om

Mr. Thomas is part of the Safety and Security Services Oman (SSS) which is an arm of the Royal Oman Police (ROP). Schmierer